

REMARKS

Claims 21-22 are now pending in the application. Claims 21, 22 and 25 are currently amended. Claims 1-20 have been withdrawn. Claims 23-24 have been cancelled. Support for the amended Claims 21 and 22 may be found throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF IDS REFERENCES

It has come to our attention that the IDS Form 1449, filed on August 24, 2006, has not been initialed and returned by the Examiner indicating that the references have been considered. We have enclosed a copy of the IDS Form 1449 for your convenience.

We would appreciate your initialing the references and returning a copy of the initialed IDS Form 1449 to our office at your earliest opportunity.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cote et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,244,728). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21

Cote discloses a LED assembly for use as an air craft position light. In Cote, it appears that light sources are all on or off at the same time. In other words, light sources in Cote may project only one light pattern (all-on). In contrast, according to the claimed invention, light sources are operable to project at least two kinds of desired light patterns, according to control of a light emitting state of each of the light sources by a light source

controller. This difference is significant because the ability to project at least two kinds of desired light patterns makes the light source apparatus suitable for use with a range finding application.

Claim 22

The examiner interprets sections 135, 138 in Fig. 6B of Cote as the divided projection ranges of the claimed invention. As shown in Fig. 6B, LEDs 125 are arranged in the same direction of the alignment of the sections 135, 138. Specifically, a first group of LEDs covering the section 135 and a second group of LEDs covering the section 138 are arranged in the same direction of the alignment of the sections 135, 138. In contrast, according to the claimed invention, a projection range is divided into a plurality of ranges in a direction for forming the light pattern, and groups of light sources respectively covering the plurality of divided ranges are aligned in a direction perpendicular to the direction for forming the light pattern. That is to say, groups of light sources respectively covering the divided ranges are aligned in a direction perpendicular to the direction for the alignment of the divided ranges. Therefore, the claimed invention is entirely different from the structure shown in Fig. 6B of Cote.

In addition, regarding the word “perpendicular”, the Examiner states that “...LEDs 125 are oriented generally perpendicular to the base circuit board...etc.” is recited in columns 12-13, lines 15-55 of Cote. However, this recitation is irrelevant to the above feature of the claimed invention.

Claim 25

In Cote, the increase or decrease of the intensity of the light sources is obtained using a lens, so that the light pattern thus formed cannot be changed. In contrast, according to the claimed invention, intensity of the light sources increases or decreases according to control of the light sources by the light source controller.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5077-000069/US/DVA from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Gregory A. Stobbs/
Gregory A. Stobbs
Registration No.: 28,764
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1214
Attorney for Applicant